

IN THE DRAWINGS

Figures 7, 8(a - b), and 9(a -b) have been amended to identify all of the features of the invention and also to identify the amended reference numerals.

A redlined version of the amended drawings is attached.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs starting at page 18, line 12 - page 21, line 16.

An alternative embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in Figures 7 – 9. The portable computer may include a display unit 10, a cover unit 152, and a base unit 12 having a keyboard 18 or other primary input device. The display unit 10 may include a display screen 16. The display unit 10, base unit 12 or both may include a central processing unit (not shown) and a memory (not shown). The location of the central processor and/or the memory may depend upon weight, heat, space and signal processing constraints. The cover unit 152 may connect the base unit 12 to the display unit 10. The cover unit 152 may be fixedly or removeably attached to the display unit 10 and the base unit 12 via fasteners (screws, snaps, etc.), adhesives (glue, [[Velcro]] VELCRO™, etc.) or the like. In embodiments of the invention, the cover unit 152 may be integrated with the display unit 10 and/or the base unit 12. For example, in an embodiment of the invention, the base unit 12 (including the keyboard 18 or other primary input device) and cover unit 152 may be joined so that the base unit 12 is located above a front portion 164 of the cover unit bottom section 162.

The display unit 10 may be electronically connected to the base unit 12 via a communication cable. In one embodiment of the invention, the communication cable may be a Universal Serial Bus cable. In embodiments of the invention, the communication cable may be embedded within or attached to a surface of the cover unit 152.

In the illustrated embodiment, when the portable computer is in closed configuration, as shown in Fig. 7, the display unit 10 may lie face down on the top

surface 155 of the base unit 12. The cover unit 152 may be attached to the top rear surface 158 of the display unit 10 and provide protection to the display unit 10 and the base unit 12 during storage or transportation of the portable computer.

When the portable computer is placed in laptop configuration, as illustrated in Figs. 8(a) and 8(b), the display unit 10 may rest at a laptop tilt angle relative to the base unit 12. In the laptop configuration, portions of the cover unit 152 may be used as a stand to support the display unit 10. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the cover unit top section 157 may be attached to the top rear surface 158 of the display unit 10 and lies flat (parallel against the top rear surface 158 of the display unit 10). The cover unit middle section 160 and the rear portion 166 of the cover unit bottom section 162 may be utilized as the stand. The angle between the cover unit middle section 160 and the top rear surface 158 of the display unit 10 may be between about 110 and about 170 degrees for example.

The cover unit bottom section 162 may be divided into a front portion 164 and a rear portion 166. Both the front portion 164 and the rear portion 166 may be parallel to the surface on which the portable computer is placed. The front portion 164 may protrude slightly beyond the edge of the display unit 10 when the portable computer is in either the closed or tablet configuration. The base unit 12 may rest upon the front portion 164 of the cover unit bottom section. In the laptop configuration, the bottom surface of the display unit 10 may abut the rear edge of the base unit 154 at the boundary between the front portion 164 and rear portion 166 of the cover unit bottom section 162. As a result, the rear edge of the base unit 12 may act as a stop for the display unit 10 so that the weight of the display unit 10 forces the display unit 10 into

contact with the rear edge of the base unit 12.

The rear portion 166 of the cover unit bottom section 162 may be connected to the cover unit middle section 160 at an angle. In embodiments of the invention of the type shown in Figs. 7-9, the angle of the rear cover unit bottom section 166 and the cover unit middle section 160 may be between 30 and 60 degrees. The angle between the cover unit middle section 160 and the cover unit bottom section 166 may depend upon the desired laptop tilt angle.

In the tablet mode, as illustrated in Fig. 9, the display unit 10 may lie parallel to the base unit 12 so as to cover the keyboard 18 or other primary input device(s). The display screen 16 in the display unit 10 may be viewable and usable by a user as a touchscreen. The user may write on the display 16 with an electronic stylus 70. The covering of the keyboard 18 or other primary input device(s) by the display unit 10 may prevent errant input as well as damage to the keyboard 18 or other primary input device(s).

In the tablet mode, the cover unit top section 157 and cover unit middle section 160 may fold onto each other and may be tucked away underneath a portion of the display unit 10 and above the rear portion 166 of the cover unit bottom section 162. The rear surface of the cover unit top section 157 may contact the rear surface of the cover unit middle section 160. The front surface of the cover unit middle surface 160 may fold onto the top surface of the rear portion 166 of the cover unit bottom section. The folded portions of the cover unit 152 may be approximately the same height as the base unit 12 and together with the base unit 12 may provide a substantially flat surface on which the display unit 10 rests on.

The cover unit 152 may be made of a flexible material, such as leather or plastic.

The cover unit 152 may also have seams 153 or grooves at the interfaces or boundaries between sections. In alternative embodiments, the sections of the cover unit 152 may be joined using hinges. A latching assembly 60, an embodiment of which is shown in Figs. 6(a)-6(e) may also be included in embodiments of the invention of the type shown in Figs. 7-9 to maintain the portable computer in a closed configuration, a tablet configuration, or both.